Production and procurement of foodgrains

231. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in food production and procurement in 2002-03; and

(b) if so, the reasons for foodgrains stocks being reduced and aggressive foodgrains export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The production and procurement of rice and wheat have declined during 2002-03.

(b)The Government undertakes export of foodgrains after meeting the full domestic requirement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes. Only the surplus stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool above the minimum buffer norms for food security are exported. A decision has been taken to stop fresh allocation of foodgrains for export w.e.f. 11th August, 2003.

Foodgrains for Southern States

232. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foodgrains allocated to Southern States for tackling drought conditions during the current calendar year, as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether foodgrains have been released as per the demand of the concerned States;

(c) if not, what was the demand of each State and foodgrains actually released;

(d) the reasons for not releasing the demanded quota; and

(e) the remedial measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The details of foodgrains demanded by and

allocated to Southern States for tackling drought conditions during the current year as on date, State-wise is as under:

State	Foodgrains demanded	Foodgrains allocated
Andhra Pradesh	15.00	1.00
Karnataka	9.90	1.65

(d) and (e) The allocation of foodgrains for relief employment in the wake of drought is made from time to time, under the Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, taking into account the requirement projected by the States, relief works undertaken, actual utilization etc.

Procurement of paddy, rice and bajra

233. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of procurement of paddy, rice and bajra in different States; State-wise;

(b) whether Government have received complaints of distress sale of these commodities by farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to procure the entire stocks of these commodities and prevent their distress sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A Statement showing the procurement of paddy, rice and bajra, State-wise'during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2003-04 is given in the enclosed Statement (see below)

(b) and (c) No reports of distress sale of paddy/rice/coarse grains conforming to FAQ specifications at below MSP rates have been received by Central Government.

(d) In order to mitigate the hardships of farmers and to avoid the possibility of distress sale, the prescribed specifications for procurement of paddy have been relaxed in the States of Bihar and Orissa. The specifications of Bajra have also been relaxed for the State of Rajasthan.